



EC Cancels Registration of 96 Local Election Monitoring Organizations



collected picture

The Election Commission (EC) has officially cancelled the registration of 96 domestic election observation organizations that were registered under the previous policy during the tenure of the Awami League government.

EC Director of Public Relations, Md. Shariful Alam, confirmed the development on Thursday. He stated, “A new policy has been issued, and the previous one has been repealed. As a result, all observer organizations registered under the old guidelines have had their registrations revoked.”

Among the cancelled organizations are several controversial groups, including JANIPOP and the SAARC Human Rights Foundation, both of which had drawn criticism for their partisan activities and alleged lack of credibility.

Sources within the EC indicate that, under the leadership of Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, several organizations with questionable qualifications were registered to monitor elections. These groups reportedly endorsed the credibility of the highly debated 12th National Parliamentary Election, as well as various other local elections, despite allegations of irregularities.

The move to revoke their registration is being seen as a step towards implementing greater transparency and accountability in election observation. However, political analysts warn that unless the new registration criteria are applied fairly and transparently, the decision may raise further questions about the EC's impartiality.

The new election observer guidelines, which have not yet been fully disclosed to the public, are expected to introduce stricter qualifications for organizations seeking to monitor future elections in Bangladesh